

## August 6th Lakes Updates

Summer is here!

On Monday, we completed Round #5 of 8 sampling sessions on all 3 lakes. Emily, from Allied Biological, was here to draw phytoplankton and zooplankton samples and supervise our use of the new oxygen meter. Oxygen levels are good. Water clarity, as measured using a Secchi disk, has decreased or remained stable. Algae is giving the water a greenish cast.

Blue/Green Algae (Cyanobacteria) levels have increased to a level where Chris Doyle, our lakes biologist, is recommending that we treat Tuxedo Lake with copper sulfate. This will happen on Friday. The treatment will enable the water filtration system to continue to work efficiently in providing us with safe drinking water. We in no way have the troubles recently experienced by Toledo that you may have read about.

A number of residents have reported an algae growing up to the lake's surface, ultimately forming mats. This is filamentous algae, a single celled algae that connects to form strands and attaches to rocks or plants or pilings and grows up to the surface to form unattractive mats. Some is growing around the docks at the boathouse in the shallow water and near the shoreline at the Wee Wah.. Fortunately, it is not potentially toxic as cyanobacteria or "blue green" algae can be. It just looks ugly.

As the summer progresses and if the temperatures stay high and there is little rain, we may experience blue green algae surface blooms. For those of you living on the Wee Wah or Little Wee Wah, who are permitted to swim at your own risk, the best rule of thumb is to stay out of the water if it looks yucky. Not scientific, but a good guideline to follow.

As you know, we are battling to control Eurasian Water Milfoil. The first hand pulling took place in June. The AIM team returned this past Monday for a second week. The increased water clarity, earlier this season, created wonderful growing conditions for this noxious plant.

Chris Doyle reports that other nasty invasive water plants are in the area: Water Chestnut has been found in Greenwood Lake and Hydrilla on the Hudson. It is imperative that everyone have boats and trailers steam cleaned before entering our lakes. Very small fragments can cling on and grow. EWM has been shown to survive outside of water for days. Any of these plants could spread from Tuxedo Lake to the Wee Wah or Little Wee Wah where they can overtake the lakes. Early detection is key to creating a management plan.

"Googling" leads to good photos of these plants and algae.

Please call and report anything that looks unusual to you. (Susan Goodfellow 351-4374) or email me at [sgoodfellow@optonline.net](mailto:sgoodfellow@optonline.net).